

Robert Gates served this country for 31 years in the United States Air Force. Across three wars he flew in hostile skies from D-Day over France to the jungles of Vietnam. Colonel Gates was decorated with two Legions of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Silver Star, the French Croix-de-Guerre, eight Air Medals and a Presidential Citation from President Roosevelt. He was the first Commander of the 1st Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, FL. He commanded Project "Ice Skate," and successfully built a permanent base with a 5000-foot runway on a floating island (called T-3) near the North Pole. Additionally, Colonel Gates commanded Task Force HIRAN, which established the SHORAN radar tracking stations on the Greenland ice cap.

On May 18 2007, Colonel Gates will add to his lengthy roll of accolades the Spirit of Hope Award. In 1942, during Mr. Hope's first USO tour, then Lieutenant Gates was assigned to fly Mr. Hope and his troupe around the Alaskan and Pacific theaters. Multiple times during his career, he piloted Mr. Hope and other USO entertainers. Over these years, Colonel Gates and Bob Hope formed a life-long personal friendship. Mr. Hope nicknamed Bob Gates "Growing Pains," and often referred to him as his son. Bob Hope so inspired the young officer that Colonel Gates decided to dedicate his entire life, energy, and compassion to helping the spouses and family members of fallen comrades, as well as others less fortunate in the Fort Walton Beach, Florida area.

Colonel Gates was instrumental in organizing twelve USO tours to raise money for the purchase of 79 acres from nearby Eglin Air Force Base to build two world-class assisted living facilities, "Bob Hope's Enlisted Widows Village" and "Theresa Village." Bob Hope's Village includes 256 one, and two-bedroom apartments, gardening plots, a gift shop, swimming pool, nature trails, and a community center that seats over 400 people. Theresa Village has 123 units with similar facilities. In 2003, the Bob and Dolores Hope Foundation donated \$1 million to build a one-of-a-kind welcome center in honor of Bob Gates' many years of support, dedication, and selfless contributions. Colonel Gates is often consulted on future facility construction plans, such as building future nursing care facilities on the Bob Hope Village complex. Additionally, Colonel Gates is an avid contributor and supporter of the Fort Walton Beach Children's Society Golf Tournament and auction that helps raise funds to support local children's agencies.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I extend my deep appreciation to Robert W. Gates for his service to Florida and our country. As he is one of Fort Walton Beach's favorite sons, we are proud to see Bob receive the Spirit of Hope Award this year.

#### TRIBUTE TO CARTER CORNICK

#### HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 21, 2007*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Ranking Member BACHUS to recognize L. Carter Cornick III for his dedicated service at the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

After serving nearly 5 years, an era of sorts, Mr. Cornick, the General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, will return to the United States Senate as Chief of Staff to Senator JOHN WARNER. In his new role, he will once again be working for the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the state he loves and ever-so-proudly calls home.

During his tenure, we have had the pleasure of working closely with Mr. Cornick on many issues involving housing policy. We have relied on him to help turn some of the Committee's ideas into realities at HUD. Mr. Cornick has been helpful on several issues where it was important for us to work together.

In addition to his work as the Department's primary advocate before Congress, Mr. Cornick should also be recognized for the deep admiration he has earned within the halls of HUD. He has taken the time to learn and understand HUD's many complex programs, and has worked with and relied upon the career experts for their advice and historical knowledge of the issues.

We commend Carter Cornick for all of his tireless efforts in representing HUD before Congress, and congratulate him on his latest endeavor in public service. He will be missed.

#### HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF JUDITH JACKSON

#### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 21, 2007*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Dr. Judith Jackson, principal of Franconia Elementary School in Fairfax County, Virginia, since 1996: and a dedicated public servant for nearly 3 decades. While Dr. Jackson is retiring, she will leave behind a lasting impression of her caring nature and tireless devotion to the school she served so well.

A graduate of Marygrove College, Dr. Jackson, earned her master's degree at the University of Michigan and her doctorate in education at Nova Southeastern University. She began her teaching career as an elementary school teacher in the Detroit Public School System, and has taught soldiers in Germany, where her husband, David Jackson, was stationed with the United States Army, and ex-offenders in Pennsylvania. She arrived in the Fairfax County School system in 1980, where she rose to the rank of Assistant Principal at Woodley Hills Elementary School. In 1996, she passed through a rigorous selection process to become principal of Franconia Elementary. Dr. Judith Jackson is also the mother of 3 wonderful children, Teresa, David, and Kevin.

Throughout her service as principal, she has been ever present in the halls and classrooms of Franconia Elementary. She knows every student by name, and is involved in every aspect of life at the school. Dr. Jackson never misses an opportunity to read to the children at school events, and is unmatched in her advocacy of the development of reading and writing skills at the elementary level. As one member of her staff put it, "All she does, day after day, is tirelessly search for ways in which every student can achieve, and every student

can experience the joy of learning". Some of the innovative programs supported by Dr. Jackson to this end are the "Reading Restaurant", "Literary Lunch", "Friday Night Prime Time", and "Partners in Print", making learning, and reading in particular, fun for her students. In recognition of her efforts, the library at Franconia Elementary School has been renamed the "Judith Jackson Library."

A supporter of after-school programs, Dr. Jackson instituted Math and Science Nights, supported "CETA (Changing Education Through the Arts)", and regularly attended Parent-Teacher Association meetings that fostered dialogue with parents and teachers. She has also volunteered with the Red Cross, tutored members of the military at the United States Military Academy at West Point, and assisted with Koinonia's efforts to help the underprivileged.

The Franconia Mustangs will sorely miss her, but will not forget her any time soon. As the Ayoud triplets, second graders at Franconia put it, "We'll just have to retire too, since Franconia won't be the same without Dr. Jackson." Something tells me she won't let them.

I commend Dr. Jackson on her distinguished career in education, and wish her and her family health and happiness in her well-earned, much deserved retirement.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS KANSAS CITY DISTRICT

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 21, 2007*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, the United States Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2007. Over the last century, the people who make up the Kansas City District have provided meaningful services to the people of Missouri and of our nation.

In the early days, the Kansas City District's primary mission was to develop and maintain a navigational channel along the Missouri River to encourage barge traffic. Barge traffic remains a vital concern along the river. Since the early 1900's, barges have been critical to moving farm products to markets and to control railroad freight rates via competition along the river. This commitment to navigation has always been so very important to those of us who hail from Missouri.

The Kansas City District has also played an important role in taming the turbulent and braided Missouri River. The men and women of the District have built numerous river control structures that have stabilized banks and used the force of the river's own current to carve a stable channel. They have constructed canals and river cutoffs that changed the course of the river. At the same time, they have offered easier navigation, opening the stream to, use, as a highway for goods.

In the 1930s and 1940s, the Kansas City District tackled flood control concerns and helped protect property and lives along the river and its tributaries. Because of flooding and the federal government's commitment to employ Army engineer officers returning from battle in World War II, dams were constructed along the main stem of the river and on adjacent streams. The Flood Control Act of 1944

shaped the development of the entire Missouri River Valley region and transformed the landscape of America's heartland. The legislation authorized hundreds of dam and levy projects and established substantial changes in federal policy with regard to the management of the Missouri River. The Kansas City District played a key role in this national effort.

In addition to its responsibilities along the Missouri River, the Kansas City District operates eighteen lakes across Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska. It also provides additional services to the nation, both inside and outside its own physical boundaries. Recently, the District has supported the United States Army by overseeing the construction of facilities for the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, KS, and of the new Lewis and Clark Classroom Facility for the Army's Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS.

Madam Speaker, I know the members of the House will join me in congratulating the people who have worked to make the United States Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District a successful organization and will join me in sending thanks to them on their 100th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO CAROL AND PETER  
CARROLL CELEBRATING THEIR  
50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. VITO FOSSELLA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 21, 2007*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, on May 18, 1957, Carol and Peter Carroll were married in St. Malachy's Church and went on to raise five children: Kathleen, John, Peter, Helen, and Paul.

Peter and Carol met while they were students at St. John's University. Peter was a starting center for the St. John's Redmen, and he and Carol met at a post-basketball game party.

Peter Carroll spent 40 years as a supervisor for Brooklyn Union Gas and coached basketball and baseball for St. Charles Parish and the Great Kills Little League. Carol worked for New York Telephone and then worked full time raising five children while also volunteering at the St. Charles School.

The Carrolls are proud grandparents of 17: Kathleen, Virginia, Caroline, Thomas, Amanda, Lindsey, Katie, Kevin, Billy, Andrew, McKenzie, Jennifer, Thomas, James, Victoria, Lauren, and Matthew. They currently split their time between Staten Island, Florida, and Long Beach Island.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Carrolls on this momentous occasion and wish them 50 more years of marriage.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF RONALD G. JOHNSON, PH.D.,  
PRESIDENT OF MALONE COL-  
LEGE, CANTON, OHIO

**HON. RALPH REGULA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 21, 2007*

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, a native of Michigan, Ron Johnson attended Malone Col-

lege in 1960 and went on to earn a bachelor of arts degree in physics from Eastern Michigan University in 1963. He received a master's degree in radiation biophysics from the University of Kansas in 1967 and the doctorate in radiation biophysics, also from the University of Kansas, in 1970. Dr. Johnson returned to Malone College in 1970 to serve as assistant professor of physics, and was subsequently promoted to associate professor in 1974 and full professor in 1979. In 1981, he accepted the post of chief academic officer. His title was changed to provost in 1991 to more accurately describe his expanded duties and role at the College. He was named president in November 1994. At his inauguration in March of 1995 he announced the theme that would characterize his presidency—The Next Level of Excellence.

Throughout Dr. Johnson's 25 years of administrative leadership, Malone College has experienced unprecedented growth and development in academics, the number of students in attendance, and physical plant. Since 1981, the number of full-time faculty has increased from 33 to 111. In addition during his presidency, the percentage of faculty holding a terminal degree has increased from 48 percent to 71 percent. Enrollment has soared nearly 200 percent from 770 to 2300. Dr. Johnson has overseen the development of numerous academic programs, including the bachelor of science in nursing; two baccalaureate degree-completion programs in management and nursing; as well as graduate programs awarding master's degrees in education, counseling, Christian ministries, business administration, and nursing.

During his tenure Malone also has developed innovative academic programs in zoo biology, forensic chemistry, sports/youth ministry, commercial music technology, and community health education, to name only a few of the more than 90 programs of study. Also of note—it is within Dr. Johnson's presidency that Malone has been honored with 2 more prestigious distinctions: recognition by the Templeton Foundation as a national leader in character development, and ranking among the top colleges and universities in the Midwest under the category Universities—Master's according to U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges 2006 and again in 2007. Dr. Johnson's experience and leadership have been instrumental during 3 of the Higher Learning Council of the North Central Association's decadal reaccreditations, including the most recent in the spring of 2004. During Johnson's presidency the College's endowment has grown nearly 500 percent from \$3.1 million to approximately \$18 million.

Appearances of such record growth are also evident in the physical changes that continue to take place on the campus. Dr. Johnson supervised the completion of Malone's newest structures—the Brehme Centennial Center, the Ewing Varsity Center, Mitchell Hall, and Haviland Hall, the School of Nursing building addition, Wellness Center, and the purchase/renovation of the Johnson Center for Worship and the Fine Arts (formerly First Christian Church). Other campus renovations under Dr. Johnson's guidance include the attractively landscaped Herbert W. Hoover Courtyard; the Marjorie Johnson Memory Garden, named in honor of Malone's beloved, late first lady; and the newly completed dining facility and entranceway to the Brehme Centennial Center.

A leader in Christian higher education, Dr. Johnson is a member of the board of directors of the Christian College Consortium and its Fund, the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities, Council of Presidents. At the state level he is vice-chair elect and a member of the executive committee of the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges. His service in the Evangelical Friends Church—Eastern Region has included serving as presiding clerk of the Yearly Meeting for 11 years and currently as a member of the executive board and the board of directors of Barclay Press. Locally, Dr. Johnson is a member of the Stark Development Board and the P-16 Compact. He has served the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce and was chairman in 2000. He has served on the boards of Leadership Stark County and the Medical Education Foundation of the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, and been involved with United Way of Stark County.

He is father to 2 married children, Mark and Kristin, and grandfather to Cameron. He attends Jackson Friends Church, where he serves as an elder and Sunday school teacher.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 21, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, on May 17, 2007 I left Washington to return to Kentucky to be with my family for a medical emergency. As a result, I missed the following votes: rollcall 375, ordering the Previous Question for the rule on S. Con. Res. 21, and had I been present I would have voted "nay"; rollcall 376 on agreeing to the resolution for the debate of S. Con. Res. 21 and had I been present I would have voted "nay"; rollcall 377 on passage of S. Con. Res. 21 and had I been present I would have voted "nay."

I oppose the Democrat Budget Conference Report because of the massive spending increases and higher tax burdens it places on Kentucky families. The budget outline includes \$22 billion in new non-defense discretionary spending, three times more than the President's request. Worse still, this conference report sets the course for one of the largest tax increases in American history—at least \$217 billion over the next five years.

The budget also ignores repeated warnings about the unsustainable rate of growth in entitlement spending, failing again to address the fiscal crisis facing Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Our economy continues to enjoy one of the longest stretches of positive gain in recent memory. The out-of-control spending and massive tax increases outlined in this conference report threatens to bring our vibrant economy to a screeching halt.

Also on May 17 during consideration of amendments to legislation concerning certain Government Sponsored Enterprises (H.R. 1427) I missed the following votes: rollcall 378, on agreeing to the Bachus amendment had I been present I would have voted, "yea"; rollcall 379, on agreeing to the Hensarling amendment had I been present I would have voted, "yea"; rollcall 380, on agreeing to the McHenry amendment had I been present I